

Commission which means at the end of the year if Marge Higgins had done a good job and the premiums were greater than the losses that I wrote with that company, then they subtract their cost of doing business, they subtract the commissions they've already paid me and they subtract a pro rata portion of the taxes they've paid to the State of Nebraska. So insurance agents have it taken out of their commissions. They don't pass it all off onto the consumer. They take part of it away from the insurance agent. They just subtract that from what they would have given the agent for being a good agent and having what we call a good loss ratio. And when you think that it has been 40 years since we've increased their taxes, I think Senator Johnson's amendment is the most reasonable and it would really be phenomenal, Senator Johnson, if it passes because it would be the first time they ever did get an increase. And one insurance company says, oh, our taxes have been going up every year. Do you know why they've been going up every year? Because the premiums that the people pay to them have been going up every year because it is based on a percentage. But the rate that they pay has not gone up every year. How many times have we increased the taxes on the taxpayers with our own bills? How many times have the taxpayers come to us with programs that they know will increase their taxes? Every year. So think about it. This will be the first time in 40 years that any insurance company in the State of Nebraska, and it isn't even an increase for them, it is just cutting a big fat credit that they get every year. You're not increasing the insurance companies' taxes. You're just cutting that credit 50 percent on just this one type of insurance, catastrophic insurance. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit and then Senator Lundy. Senator Lundy. Senator Nichol.

SPEAKER NICHOL: I thought this was a good bill the way it was as I understood it. Maybe I don't understand it and I think I oppose the Johnson amendment. But it amazes me, and having worked with insurance companies for several years, it amazes me that this body thinks that we get into the pocket of the insurance company. Senator Higgins is right. One way or another somebody pays that tax, but it does not come out of insurance companies' pocket. Insurance companies have what they call actuaries and the actuaries are smarter than we are inasmuch as they figure out what the premium